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MEMOIRS

OF

Antonina, Queen of Abo.

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DISPLAYING HER

PRIVATE INTRIGUES,

AND

UNCOMMON PASSIONS.

WITH

FAMILY SKETCHES,

AND CURIOUS

ANECDOTES OF GREAT PERSONS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.

L O N D O N,

Printed for E. BENTLY, No. 22, FETTER LANE.

1791.

This coarse, false and infamous libel was published in Paris, early in the Revolution, and had its share in producing the events which terminated in the murder of Louis 16 and the Queen. Obscene and stupid as it is, it was, if we may believe Cobbett, (see his Political Register for 1804 part 2 pp 336-345 &c) translated by a saint, a reformer, a man whom Mr. Pitt made a Police-magistrate, and who, in return, disgusted every lover of Mr. Pitt's fame by a tedious & ill-written history of his life, in a word, by Mr. John Giffard. When Cobbett first came to England Mr. Giffard assisted him in the Porcupine press, in the execution of his childish advertisement and fondling for him, may have incautiously betrayed some secret concerning himself which Cobbett, with characteristic treachery & baseness, published to all the world, as soon as it would serve the purpose of his Interest and his vengeance. Giffard deserved to be exposed, but Cobbett was a scoundrel for doing it.



M E M O I R S

OF

Antonina, Queen of Abo.



THERE is not any thing more interesting in history, than the exploits of heroes and heroines of all descriptions : such have ever been received with avidity, and regarded as the true source of useful knowledge. Each individual has his particular virtues and vices ; each man is the hero of his own party. The greatest rogue claims an equal rank with the greatest man, and the woman of manners the most pure, and conduct the most irreproachable, is frequently confounded with the most licentious and debauched votary of vice. The mask assumed by each is calculated to mislead the judgment, and to fix a reputation on the most deceitful and improper basis. Hence the public is apt to assign to the hero the appellation of Rogue, and to the rogue that of Hero ; to call the woman of virtue a
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Prostitute, and the prostitute a woman of Virtue.

Such, on the continent of Europe, were the King of Prussia and Mandrin. Each the hero of his own party, they both of them astonished the world by their genius, their conduct, their courage, and success. They did not, indeed, experience the same end. Such, too, were the Countess Yrrabud and Antonina. The first excited universal astonishment in Sirap (the capital of Abo) by the most low and disgusting debauchery, as public as possible. The debauchery of Antonina is equally great; the effervescence of her passions equally strong. Man or woman --- 'tis the same to her---nothing comes amiss to her; and her want of skill and reflection renders her misconduct as public as the *profession* of the countess. These two celebrated females resembled each other in another point---in deceiving and degrading the men to whom it was their duty to procure respect. Silvo LI. even to his death, was a most complete dupe to Yrrabud, who, without the smallest regard to decency, admitted indiscriminately the valet and the courtier to partake her bed with their sovereign. Silvo LXI. is equally deceived and disgraced by his wife, without even seeming to think it possible that such things can be.

'Tis

'Tis of this celebrated princess we are now about to speak. She begins her career with such eclat, that we may be assured she will play a distinguished part on the stage of life, and that her name will deserve to be ranked with those of the European heroines---the Medicis, the Margarets of Valois, and of many other queens and princesses, of whom anecdotes, not less curious than rare, have been preserved in history.

Airam-Afereht, the mother of our heroine, possessed the grand art of concealing her defects and misconduct beneath a semblance of genius, virtue, and resolution. Such was her progress through life, that every deviation from prudence, to which she was urged by the warmth of her constitution, was counterbalanced by some great and splendid action. Her three daughters possess all the vices of their illustrious mother, but none of her virtues. The character of the Queen of Abo we shall presently exhibit. The second sister, the Queen of Selpan, is a perfect *nullity*. The third, who has exhausted the Duke of Exas-Neticset, the most robust man in his dominions, gave her husband, the first night of her marriage, the most unequivocal proofs of her incontinence---That circumstance alone, indeed, gave rise to the marriage.

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Antonina

Antonina arrived in the kingdom of Abo in the year 1768, in order to consummate the most extraordinary marriage that ever was formed. It will be here necessary to take a cursory view of the situation of the court at the time of her arrival, for the purpose of giving an idea of the causes and consequences of this marriage; such a view too may, perhaps, afford something like a justification of those disorders which we are about to relate.

The Duke of Luesiohc (born to rival the fame of those skilful politicians of Europe, Richelieu and Mazarine *) was, in some measure, prime minister by the ascendancy

* The learned annotator of this work again differs essentially from the author. How, says he, can any one compare our countryman Luesiohc to those ingenious Europeans?—The most trifling of mortals to Richelieu, and the most thoughtless of beings to Mazarin? Luesiohc is inexcusable for having formed an impolitic connection, since it was not his intention to sacrifice his country to Airtsua; he is inexcusable, since the disposition of Antonina was known before it was thoroughly developed—since he could not be ignorant of her mother's exulting exclamation—"I am now even with Abo—she will have my daughter for her queen."—But he told a friend, in confidence, that he trusted too much to the seducing arts of his countrymen; and vainly imagined that a multiplicity of pleasures would stifle in their growth those evils with which the mind of Antonina was known to abound.

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he had acquired over the mind of Silvo LI the weakest of men, and the most contemptible prince of the age in which he lived. The duke, whose spirit of intrigue was only equalled by his audacity, had obtained this degree of favour by the most abject submission, and the accomplishment of a *political* crime the most absurd and unpardonable. However solid he might deem the basis of his credit and authority, he dreaded the intrigues of a mistress he despised, and had even publicly insulted. Yrrabud, by dint of caballing, had formed a powerful party; the duke's enemies were numerous; he had made many official reforms, and been long in place---He knew the courtiers were fond of change, and he therefore feared that his disgrace was near at hand. In this situation it was natural he should seek for protection of a superior kind; and he thought to obtain it by projecting and compleating the marriage of the lovely Antonina with Nihpuad*. Were this the only reproach which Abo had to object to him, it would suffice to render him odious to the whole nation.

Yrrabud, a courtesan completely infamous from the lowness of her debauchery, now

* The title given to the heir to the crown of Abo.

filled the throne of the Snobruob; she had quitted the army of lacqueys and footmen for those of the Count Yrrabud, (a man who richly merited the universal contempt in which he was held) and from thence had passed into the arms of the king, whom she degraded by every species of infamy. It was this refuse of human nature that, with the assistance of some courtiers as contemptible as herself---the Ueilehcirs, Casnorfs, Noliugias, Jorellivs, Noepuams, and many others of a similar stamp, whose names would pollute our paper, held the reins of the government of Abo in her own hands. Such was the faction which, in a moment of debauchery, overturned that Colossus of power which the Duke of Luesiohc had raised above his head, and on whose back he had placed his sister, the Dutchess of Tnom-marg. To this Medicis of Abo may be justly applied the saying of an European poet with regard to the princess of that name---“ That she possessed all the vices, but none of the virtues, of her sex.” A woman of intrigue, and excessively proud, accustomed to exert the most despotic authority over all those who surrounded her car, and that of her brother---which might be called their common bed ;---she attempted to exert the same dominion over An-

tonina

tonina, The man who had caused the destruction of the father, perceived, from the imbecility of the son, that it would be an easy matter to acquire a complete ascendancy over his mind; he pursued his plans accordingly, and Abo was on the point of becoming a prey to the pride and ambition of these two personages, when Yrrabud effected their disgrace, and drove them from court. As the Maid of Orleans had formerly proved the saviour of France, so did Yrrabud now prove the preserver of Abo. The conduct and the motives of these heroines, however, were essentially different.

Had the Duke of Luesiohc known how to govern Silvo LI. his command over him would not have been an absolute degradation of the monarch; but his violent attachment to Yrrabud was as unpardonable, as the baseness of his courtiers in paying their court to a woman who frequently insulted them in the most public manner. But what was still more extraordinary, was, that in the court of Abo, *women* should be found mean enough not only to keep company with her, but to introduce her to the king*.

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* The author must have had a very imperfect knowledge of the women who frequent the court of Abo,

The Dutchess of Sionitnelav, the vile Dutchess of Xioperim, the fat Princess of Yrgnit, and many others who were beneath degradation, were adopted as companions to the favourite. They voluntarily undertook to teach her the arts of a court, to polish her, and to make her lay aside, particularly in public, that licentious air which had made her shine so conspicuously in her midnight orgies. Her introductress lost her character by her audacity; the favourite, too, proved ungrateful, and did little for her; her sole recompence consisted of a little money, a place of little consequence for her son, and continual rebukes; at last she was obliged to

not to know the influence of *gold* over their minds. Such are the customs of our society, that the women of Abo are always without a sixpence. Their wants are insatiate, and their resources sterile. The Countess of Nraëb, who was so absurd as to introduce Yrrabud, had no one to guide her conduct; the Dutchess of Xioperim—who always acted the honourable part of procuress to our king—owed as many *purses* as she had grey hairs on her head; the Dutchess of Sionitnelav had expressed her envy of Miss Signal a thousand times; it was to her the Duke of Luesiohc said, about half an hour after he had enjoyed her—"Now let us chat a little—Pray, to what am I indebted for your favours? It cannot be to my person, since I am very ugly; nor to my sentiments, for I never expressed any affection for you; nor yet to your friendship for me, for this very morning you abused me grossly to the Prince of Uaëvuaeb. When we despise people, we should at least know why we do so."

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leave the court, and her son lost his place on account of a duel---in which he neither proved his courage nor his judgment---with the Marquis of Ertahc, who had cast some reflections on his mother. The Count of Yslib, who had long been the pander of Ueilehcir, to whom he was indebted for his wife Smetnob, given him as a recompence for his services, was chosen to conduct Yrrabud to the bed of her sovereign, and Tuaffub, on the point of a bankruptcy, supplied her with the necessary equipments for her wedding night. Yslib was rewarded by the payment of his debts; and Tuaffub, instead of becoming a bankrupt, gained forty thousand pounds, and the capital was compelled to receive him for her treasurer; he discharged the duties of his office with all the insolence of an upstart, and concluded by violating the ties of friendship, in marrying the mistress of his friend, a woman who was publicly kept.

The council was composed of ministers who were almost all of them contemptible, either from their ignorance or vices. Uoe-puam, chancellor; the Duke of Ereillirv, chamberlain; the Duke of Nollugia, secretary at war, and for the foreign department; De Senyob, first lord of the admiralty; and the Abbe Jarret, comptroller of the finances; filled

filled all the neighbouring countries with the noise occasioned by their glorious exploits, their intrigues, their misconduct, their roguery, and incapacity. Every moment they urged their sovereign to the adoption of some inconsiderate measure, which a want of resolution and resources soon obliged him to give up: in short, a total subversion of the laws, an exhausted treasury, and a people overburthened with taxes, formed the blessed result of their proceedings.

The princes of the blood, the only company which Antonina could keep, were not better calculated than the rest of the court to give her lessons of decency; some of them were sunk in the vilest debauchery; others were mean enough to pay their court to the prostituted idol of their sovereign; the rest, destitute of sense, courage, and honour, degraded themselves either by their silence or the disorders that surrounded them, or else by an ignominious retreat, as humiliating to themselves as fatal to the happiness of the people;—a duke of Snaelro marrying his mistress, and devoting his whole time to dramatic exhibitions; his son, the Duke of Sertrahc * dishonouring, by his conduct, the

* The annotator again appears to have less severity than the author.—He says—Not having listened to the

the blood of the Snobruob; the Prince of Itnoc polluting it by his debauchery; his son, the Count of Ehcrum, by paying his court to Yrrabud, whose gentleman usher he was; the Prince of Ednoc living openly with another man's wife, whom he supplied with money to carry on a law-suit against her husband, and having nothing of the Ednocs but the name, which he was unable to sustain. The Duke of Erveihtnep, a most decided hypocrite, with all the vices of devotees, but with none of their virtues; and the Count d'Ue, living habitually with the inhabitants of the Forest, whom he resembled in every respect, and against whom, for that very reason, he ought to have abstained from waging such continual war.

The Princesses, of whom there were but few at that time, formed a separate party from their husbands: the Dutchess of Sert-

the syren voice of pleasure, and passed a part of his youth in the follies of voluptuousness, a man cannot deserve such bitter reproaches. This patriotic prince is a good husband, a good father, and a good friend; he is generous, popular, and beneficent. These surely are virtues which may be deemed an ample counterbalance to all his faults.—How few possess the right of distributing censure!—From the vicious alone ought we to withhold our indulgence.

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rahc was the only one of them who merited the confidence of Antonina; but her virtues deprived her of that confidence. All the women of the court, a very small number excepted, were either prostitute (to one sex or the other) or gamblers, or sharpers, and in general the very worst company in that quarter of the globe.

Even if Antonina had not brought with her to the court of Abo, the gem of every vice, even that of an unbridled love of her own sex, it would not have been surprizing, at her age, surrounded by such people, and witness to such disorders, if she had preferred the seducing path of pleasure, to that dull and even life which her august and stupid husband was likely to make her lead. In fact, how could it be expected that a young princess, of a constitution uncommonly warm, could confine herself to a husband without passions as without taste, who left her to the company of women destitute of honour, that were influenced by different motives, either to seduce her, or else to secure her heart, which, though yet innocent perhaps, was strongly inclined to become otherwise.

When Antonina first arrived at court, she was generally liked, with a pretty face, an elegant shape, a gaiety of humour, affable, attentive,

attentive, and well informed ; she was for a moment the idol of the court and of the nation. It will easily be supposed that she soon laid a plan of life that might entitle her to give a scope to her inclinations. The etiquette of the court of Abo, very different to that of the court she had left, while it preserves an air of grandeur, serves as a safeguard to the honour of princes ; since the continual restraint it imposes on their wives, keeps all gallants at a distance, and disconcerts the best formed projects. Incessantly watched with a jealous eye, a young princess is there reduced to content herself with her husband, and if that husband prove impotent, it is scarcely possible for any one but her chaplain or confessor to supply his place. This was a circumstance that by no means accorded with the arrangements of Antonina.

That princess began by vain prettexts, that could not fail to please the king, to loosen those bands by which her conduct was restrained ; she insisted upon entering her grandfather's apartment alone, and whenever she liked ; she walked about continually, unattended, and without ceremony, in order, she said, to shew herself to a people she loved, and by whom she wished to be beloved. The Dutchess of Selliaon, first lady of the chamber, who had been disadvantageously

tageously represented to the princess, was constantly ridiculed, and her remonstrances were neglected; and as her sole object was to preserve the etiquette of the court of Abo, she thence received the appellation of Madame Etiquette.

Old Silvo's partiality to his granddaughter was not of long duration. The Nihpuad and his brothers, in short all the princes of the blood, had a fixed aversion to Antonina; the Nihpuad in particular suffered no opportunity of mortifying her to escape. The king was very desirous that she should seek to convert this hatred into sentiments of an opposite nature; he spoke to her on the subject; but how could he expect his advice to be listened to, when he had the baseness to seat her at the same table with that immodest creature who held the place of the Queen of Abo. This conduct must naturally have disgusted the young princess; but she confined her resentment to some severe sarcasms, which came to the king's ears, and caused a coolness between them.

This change appears to have been the signal of those domestic dissensions, which prevailed and still continue to prevail in the royal family; those dissensions, which have more than once given rise to the most scandalous scenes, irritated the disposition of Antonina,

tonina, who, from the favour she enjoyed with the king, had hitherto seen every thing bow down before her.

The Countess of Ecnevorp, the most vain, the most intriguing, and the most jealous of women*, was enraged at not being married, herself, to the next heir to the crown; she hated Antonina, as much as she despised her sister the Countess of Siotra. The countess, inconsistent in her conduct, devoid of sense, and destitute of ideas†, passes

* This portrait is not well drawn. [She is officious, but not intriguing. When a woman only employs the most common resources; when she betrays her secret twice a day; when her lovers are all of her own sex, she cannot be called a woman of intrigue. Intrigue requires a stronger mind, and more glaring vices. The leading feature in the disposition of this princess is an imperious desire of enjoyment. She loves wine, men, women, gardens, furniture, money, and, cost what it will, her taste for these different articles must be satisfied;—though the king swears, her husband pouts, the minister refuses, a revolution takes place, or the States General adopt a system of economy, it is the same thing to her—she sets them all at defiance—enjoy she must, and enjoy she will.

† This is going too far; he should have said, without strength of mind, or any fixed principles, but good and generous. With her, pleasure is the first object; the moment her imagination is heated, all is

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passes the whole day in listening to the filthy discourse of her femme de chambre, who is also her husband's nurse, and occasionally his procuress. This princess would lead the most inactive and stupid life, if she had not received from Nature the gift of conception. She owes her moral existence and her credit to her fecundity, which, in spite of her defects, renders her supportable to the inhabitants of Abo, who like---without knowing why---to see children in the family of their sovereign.

These three young women were rather formed to receive, than to make, impressions ; and each of them received such as were given them by those women who were oftenest in their company. The three princes, their husbands, have as little strength

over with her ; it must be *cooled*. The imagination of princesses, whose sole occupation is to listen to the scandal of Sirap and the court, is confined to one point, and incessantly refreshed by the voluptuous recitals of their women, who, conscious of the pleasure they give thereby, are studious to paint with fire. One of them was relating the adventure of Miss Comdat with Mr. P., and found herself at a loss for expressions sufficiently delicate—"It's so difficult," said she, "always to gloss over an anecdote."—"Speak plain," replied the princess ; "for to me the description is as good as the thing itself."

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of mind as personal consequence. The eldest, perfectly foolish, is guided by an innate vanity, which tells him that every excellence is centered in himself. While he was Niphuad, his inclinations and his pleasures evinced the narrowness of his genius; since he has been king, a smile, a caress from his wife, forms the sum-total of his felicity, gratifies every desire, and would lead him to subvert the monarchy, if he was not restrained by certain considerations with which the Count of Saperium inspires him. This president of the council of the weakest of princes, is actuated but by one principle---viz. the most perfect indifference for every thing that can happen; undisturbed by events of any kind whatever, wholly occupied by the functions of his stomach, all the rest is a mere dream to him. From his wardrobe he beholds the fall of ministers, who think themselves the most firmly established in their seats, and enjoy the insignificance of those who aspire to become objects of importance. A man of wit and ability, possessing those social endowments which render him an amiable companion in his old age; but yet a bad minister from his excessive carelessness. As our design is to speak less of the ministers than of their master and mistress, this old

man of eighty will be only mentioned occasionally, because he enjoys, at the same time, the confidence of the king, of the queen, and of their brothers and sisters; because he laughs at every thing, comments on every thing, and is always content, provided his digestion be good, and he is amused with that stupid fellow Beaumarchais, who is paid so much per night for exhibiting his buffooneries behind the chairs of the Count and Countess of Saperuam.

The king then is an absolute nullity--- both in mind and body. The Count of Ecnevorp too is accused and convicted of a defect equally fatal, which makes his wife furious, particularly when she contrasts her own sterility with the queen's pregnancy, although she has had recourse to the same means for removing it as Antonina. The Count is proud, vain, imperious, and subtle; but niggardly and destitute of wit; his constitution is weak, and his genius confined. He talks on every subject, by mere dint of memory, without having investigated any one; he shuts himself up in his study, that he may be thought to devote a part of the day to reading and to the acquisition of useful knowledge; but while he is there, he trifles away his time in making a critical journal of the events

events of the monarchy, and of every thing which he hears from his parasites, who bring him the news of the town and the court : he often passes whole hours in admiring his diamonds, of which he is remarkably fond ; these he buys like an usurer, and accumulates as a miser does his gold, for the purpose of prostrating himself before them. Before this prince was married, he was deemed a man of gallantry, and appeared to follow, in this respect, the example of his ancestors. But since his marriage he seems to have contracted the same contemptuous air towards his wife, which she herself displays to all who attend her ; he no longer frequents the society of women, but for the pleasure of ridiculing them ; he no longer speaks of them, but for the sake of making obscene remarks, of which he is passionately fond. It is well known that he keeps Mrs. Egarret, wife to a clerk of the Treasury ; but no one can conceive for what purpose he keeps her, nor what use he makes of her.

The Count of Siotra, the least awkward* of the three, has a face that would appear

* Granted—but the least estimable also. This fugitive prince has displayed an atrocious disposition :

appear handsome, if his mouth were not always open, which gives him an air of stupidity that perfectly accords with his conversation. He is well made, and graceful enough ; but blunt, imperious, and passionate ; never opening his lips, in the company of women, but to excite their blushes by his obscenity ; and, in the company of men, but to make some brutal remark, which often produces an adequate reply. This prince only loves women, play, and wine---that is, at the same time ; he is addicted to debauchery of every kind, which he enjoys in the company of his worthy friend the Duke

he has formed the most infernal projects against an humane and generous people ; he has debauched the aristocracy, and only wanted talents to render despotism triumphant. When Rakcen was going to the council, he met him, and clenching his fist at him, thus addressed him—"Where art thou going, thou foreign traitor ? Art thou fit to sit in the council, thou wretched cit ? Return to thy home, or this hand shall put an end to thy existence !"---The minister retreated a step or two, looked him full in the face, and then went into the council-chamber without deigning to answer him. Such an expressive silence was a better lesson than the most pompous harangue. The Count of Siotra is destitute of talents both natural and acquired ; he is also destitute of principle, patriotism, sense, and resolution ; he will never be formidable, but he will give rise to many transitory evils.---The nation has proscribed him.

of Sertrahe, the most base and stupid of all the princes of the blood, who unites in his ugly person every possible vice---a sharper, a miser, a drunkard; a stranger to decency and virtue, he is a disgrace to his family, and an object of execration to the nation. The Count of Siotra's household is composed of people of his own stamp; the Prince of Nineh, captain of his guards, is truly worthy of the honourable office of pimp and catamite, in which he is daily employed by his patron. This gentleman was formerly maitre d'hotel and purse-keeper to Sophia Dluanra, first singer at the opera. and the first *Tribade** of the age.

Antonina, at first, seemed to attach herself to the Count of Siotra; but of that attachment we shall have occasion to speak hereafter. She began by banishing from the court all kind of etiquette, and substituted the most open liberty in the place of that awful ceremony which had been established by the late queen, and which, by the bye, was the only good thing which that princess ever did in her life. She soon became tired of the impotent caresses of her husband, and, as much from natural inclination, as

* A woman fond of her own sex.

for the purpose of deception, gave way to the licentious and impassioned caresses of her women. She had long formed the design of giving an heir to the throne; that, indeed, was the chief end of those obstructions which she had received from the knowing empress, her mother, previous to her departure from Anneiv. She suffered her august husband to exhaust all his endeavours for this purpose, which were equally short and ineffectual. It was necessary, therefore, to have recourse to a lover; she would not however employ a mere *machine for procreation*; she wished for a handsome and amiable man, who, to powerful faculties, united a certain degree of consequence;---since, in that case, were the matter discovered, her reputation would not be wholly destroyed.

Not daring to trust to herself in an object of such importance, Antonina dispatched a private courier to Anneiv, for she could not place a confidence in General Icrem, with whom, too, a long conference might excite suspicion. The courier returned, and brought the following answer from the Oracle, which we have transcribed verbatim:
 “ Since, my dear child, you have a passion for women, you must certainly gratify it; but

but be constant, moderate, and discreet in your amours. Constancy protects reputation; and moderation and discretion are essential to the preservation of health---since nothing spoils the person, and hurts the constitution so soon, as an intercourse of this nature. Your husband is unable to make you a mother, and ever will remain so;---'tis doubtless a great evil, since a sterile queen is equally destitute of consequence and support. You must therefore follow my example, and take a substitute. Let your choice be directed by the same considerations which induced me to fix mine on Prince Selrahc---let the object of it be tall, handsome, young, and, above all, vigorous; select him from among those courtiers who are ever nearest your person. Let what will happen then, you will have nothing to fear---Your lover will be an additional protector to you; in which you will be more fortunate than I was; the whole world were acquainted with my gallantry and its effects. Your's may be easily concealed beneath your passion for your own sex; but let me again repeat---Take care of your health." This advice---with the exception of constancy and discretion---was strictly adhered to, and every thing happened as the Oracle had foretold.

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The Dutchess of Yugiuep was the first who was honoured with the friendship and *intimacy* of Antonina. She amused her, a long time, by her bon-mots and sallies of wit; particularly by her continual sarcasms on Yrrabud, who was a constant object of ridicule to the whole family; but this talent excited the fears of her companions, and made her many enemies, who contrived to promote her disgrace.

The late Duke of Noyuguav, that mortal enemy to the Duke of Luesiohc, against whom he had declared open war, was seeking, at this period, to strengthen his tottering party. He imagined that if he could contrive to place his daughter-in-law, the Dutchess of Saint Nirgiam, in the bed of Antonina, she might promote his designs against his enemy, and obtain for herself the place of tire-woman. This dutchess, one of the most beautiful, and most lovely women of the court, was highly worthy to enjoy the post of favourite which she speedily acquired; but though she gave the most perfect satisfaction in those amorous exploits to which she was destined by her lascivious mistress, her reign was short. A want of political genius led her to spare the Countess Yrrabud---not that she visited her, but she forbore

forbore to calumniate her in private, or to insult her in public---her design was to keep two strings to her bow ; but between two stools---the proverb is well known. Suffice it to say, this prudence was disliked, and the new lover, in consequence, divorced.

She was succeeded by the Dutchess of Effoc, who was made tire-woman, at Antonina's request to the king ; which was accompanied by a particular supplication, that her late lover might be excluded from this post. The third mistress would have experienced more constancy and favour than either of her predecessors, if her serious disposition---which inclined her to reason and philosophize---would have permitted her to consult, somewhat more than she did, Antonina's taste for frivolity and vicious pleasures. Their connection finished with the year.

Till the death of Silvo LI. this partiality to women only tended to shew the strength of Antonina's passions, which might have been more naturally gratified by the other sex. She seemed, for a moment, to cast her eyes on the Count of Siotra ; but, it is affirmed, that this prince, who, in other respects, seldom displays an atom of reflection,

tion was prudent enough not to run the risk of giving himself a master. Either from this motive, or from the licentious life he now led---which he preferred to a connection that would naturally require great delicacy and discretion---nothing farther occurred between these relations, than some nocturnal excursions, and harmless sports, of a nature too innocent to satisfy the ardent Antonina.

During this interval, the Marchioness of Ylliam occupied the seat of confidence and intimacy; she made one in all the parties, and in all the councils, of the new queen, to whom she served as a spy, and to whom she related all the anecdotes of the court. At length, Count Nolid---surnamed the Handsome---returned to court, where he had formerly lived in the capacity of page, and drew all eyes upon him; the queen was not the last to receive the impression he made, and her advances, as might naturally be supposed, obtained the preference. Nolid, on his part, exerted his utmost efforts to please, and succeeded in the attempt. Stupid and unamiable, with a constitution nearly worn out---such was the man who became the hero of the day---a hero, who is only a man in appearance, and who knows, of honour, nothing but the name. At Spa he was

was threatened with a caning in the presence of the King of Sweden, and apologized to the person who promised him this wholesome correction. Like that Nolid who resides at Bruxelles, his whole merit consists in a handsome person, a polluted mind, and a cowardly heart.

The artful queen found the means of insinuating her favourite into the good graces of her foolish husband, who honoured him with peculiar marks of friendship and esteem; at all their card parties, the king was Nolid's banker, and supplied him with money to play with Antonina. The count always lost; but though the king is not more generous than the rest of the Snobruob, this circumstance never displeased him. In short, the connection appeared to him very proper, till a marked indiscretion excited his fears. The queen, at one of those balls which she frequently gave at the palace, and at which she seldom danced with any one but Nolid, pretended to have a violent palpitation at her heart, and, throwing herself on a sofa, begged her husband would apply his hand to the part affected, which he accordingly did; she next desired the count to do the same, and he was daring enough to comply, by placing his hand on

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her bare bosom, which rose beneath the pressure, strongly beating with fierce desire. The king thought this was carrying the joke somewhat too far, and his countenance began to lower ; but a few kind expressions from his wife, accompanied by a fond embrace, dispelled the gathering storm, and rescued her gallant from the danger which threatened him. Nolid continued to enjoy the charms of Antonina, and her fool of a husband again sunk into his usual state of stupidity.

But Nolid was at length obliged to join his regiment, notwithstanding the queen's efforts to retain him ; she had used her interest with the obstinate De Yum for obtaining a farther leave of absence, but in vain. The separation was pathetic on both sides ; but the Princess of Eenemeug soon dried up the tears of Antonina ; and Nolid consoled himself for her loss, in the arms of a chambermaid.

The queen's love for the vigorous and wanton Eenemeug was so powerful, as to make the best-informed courtiers imagine that her reign would prove long. Their rendezvous followed each other with astonishing rapidity ; they were frequently shut
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up together for two hours at a time ; it seemed impossible to calm the violence of their passions ; for even in public, and in presence of the female domestics, they caressed each other in the most lascivious manner. But Nolid's return from his regiment, procured the dismissal of his female rival, which he repayed by joys more solid and substantial.

The winter of this year was signalized by amusements of every kind ; balls at court and at the opera ; plays, suppers, and dramatic exhibitions, furnished continual occupation for the royal family, and all those who attended them. The moment it was known that the queen had no aversion to the male sex, all the noblemen of the court aspired to obtain her. The insipid Marquis of Valal, at one time, believed himself the favoured object ; but the queen only encouraged his hopes, that she might fix her affections elsewhere with less danger of discovery. Nolid still appeared in the lists ; but experience had taught Antonina the necessity of a better champion. This was the season for intrigue ; and the queen paid so little regard to decency in her conduct during the winter, that the prudes of the

court thought themselves justified in talking to her on the subject.

The Princess of Nafram, who knew nothing of love but its pains, and who still laments the loss of a favoured lover killed during the campaign of 1744 ; as well as the Countess of Saperuam, the worthy and respectable object of the Abbe de Yrrev's affection, ventured to remonstrate with Antonina, who listened to them with seeming attention, but disregarded their advice.--- That was all natural.

At length the wishes of Antonina were crowned with success ; by openly giving a loose to her inclinations in one respect, she imagined that she had effectually concealed the real object of her pursuits ; she now became pregnant ; an event which supplied ample matter for conversation, as the whole court seemed to think themselves interested in it. The Count and Countess of Siotra thought the joke a very bad one ; every one reasoned upon it according to his feelings or caprice, and poor Antonina was abused on all sides.

This pregnancy was traced back—with a malicious precision of curiosity—to the balls
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and festivals that were given during her brother's visit to the Court of Abo. The women whom Antonina had enjoyed, felt themselves particularly offended; having thought her solely attached to her own sex, they could not forgive this instance of inconstancy---On those points, women of that stamp, it is said, are implacable. The hero of such a glorious exploit was soon discovered; and the Duke of Yugioc was universally regarded as the happy man. This amiable nobleman, who was blest with a handsome person, with manners the most insinuating, an advantageous mien, eyes that were eloquent, and with health totally different, in all respects, from that of the exhausted Nolid, had, for some time, attracted the queen's attention. His extreme circumspection would have totally prevented any ill effects from the gratification of her passion, had not her own imprudence rendered it public. The place, the hour, the very moment of conception, was known. They recollected a masquerade at the Opera-house, at which the queen appeared in a long grey cloak, accompanied by her women, who wore the very same disguise. The duke was alone in one of the upper boxes; Antonina gave her companions the slip, and ran to the place of rendezvous. She had

not been gone long before she was missed, when her women, alarmed, went in search of her, and met her coming out of the box, in such violent agitation with the exercise she had just undergone, that she almost fainted away on the stair-case. A woman, who was present, marked this instant on her tablets, which were speedily circulated among her acquaintance; and, in a short time, the circumstance was written down, in letters of gold, in every pocket-book about court. The Princess of Eenemeug, deeming herself the most insulted, because the most recently possessed by her, commented with so much freedom on the subject, that she fell into disgrace, was banished from court, and was succeeded in her post of gouvernante, by the Princess of Nasram.

The queen, doubtless, either regarded her intrigues with the men as an act of necessity, or else pursued them from mere caprice. She could not satisfy her burning desires, without having the object that gave rise to them perpetually with her; wherefore she determined always to have a woman with whom she could live in habits of the strictest intimacy. The Princess of Ellabmal had long been her friend, but she had not been initiated into her amorous mysteries
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till after her rupture with Eenemeug. This lady had received the most unequivocal marks of her bounty and affection. The Dutchess of Selliaon was no sooner placed about the person of Antonina, than her mistress conceived a dislike to her, which was not at all surprising. In consequence of this, the dutchess experienced the harshest treatment---but what can dishearten the family of Selliaon? Insensible to mortifications, and callous to insult, nothing can stop them when in the pursuit of interest. Mrs. Etiquette, adhering to this system, was resolved not to resign her place; and decency forbade her expulsion, without some positive fault. A friend of the family good-naturedly advised the queen to create a new post in her household, which might reduce that of the duchess to a mere nothing in point of honour and emolument. For this purpose the post of Superintendant of the Household was created; and, in order to mortify the first lady of honour the more sensibly, it was resolved to give it to some woman of superior rank and birth. The Princess of Ellabmal was the person fixed on. Young and lovely, with an elegant form, and a handsome face, she was exempt from passions herself, though possessed of all the charms which could inspire them. This
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last qualification was sufficient to secure the favour of her mistress, who accordingly resolved to do every thing for her.

De Togrut was so stupid as to oppose the additional expence, proposed to be incurred by the queen in the department of her household ; and his opposition lost him his place. The discontents of her majesty were speedily diffused over the whole palace, and seemed to authorize the heavy complaints of the women against a minister, who, besides many other defects, was known to have no partiality for the fair-sex. This cabal was joined by all the other enemies of Togrut---by men, who, as well from a natural love of change, as from motives of interest, did not like to see ministers remain long in place. The queen, exerting the authority she maintained over her royal husband, procured the dismissal of Togrut, and the promotion of her favourite to the appointment she had destined for her, with a salary of near seventeen thousand pounds sterling per annum. Her reign lasted till after the queen's delivery, when, being eclipsed by the Yngioes, she prudently withdrew herself from embraces, whose extreme ardour was incapable of affording her the smallest gratification. Humiliated, however, by the unworthiness of those

those who were selected to succeed her, and placing too firm a reliance on the extent of her credit, she complained of the queen's contemptuous neglect of her to the king himself, who, instead of answering her, burst into a vacant laugh, then hopped away to his forge, in order to finish a padlock he had begun the night before, and which was wanted immediately. The haughty Savoyard did not stop there, but applied to her hypocritical father-in-law, who being endued with as much sense as generally falls to the share of devotees, ran to the curate of the parish ; and the worthy pastor promised to mention the matter to the king the first time he came to confession. But as the secrets of confession can never be divulged, we cannot pretend to say what passed between them ; we only know that the queen's indifference for the princess daily augmented, though she continued to discharge the duties of her office with equal pride and dignity.

In the mean time, the queen's pregnancy advanced ; and though the real author of it was well known, several other fathers were assigned to this much-desired offspring. The king was the only person in the court who remained in an error on the subject, and
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conferred on himself the honours of *pater-
nity*; the best-natured of husbands, the
humble lord of the castle of Selliasrev,
piqued himself on the laurels he had thus
acquired in the conjugal field, while all his
courtiers, to whom the truth was known,
applauded the stupidity of the pretended fa-
ther. Damade, expert in intrigues, and fully
acquainted with those of her sister-in-law,
had made her husband as wise as herself;
and this studious prince inserted the curious
account in his learned Annals of the reign
of his illustrious brother, which contain an
exact relation of all his domestic affairs,
even of every thing which passed at his
forge; which certainly is not that of Vulcan;
since he does not employ it for the fabrica-
tion of nets to catch the lovers of his wife,
by taking them in the very fact. This eru-
dite production, of the most euridite prince
of the age, will one day become the chief
ornament of his library, as it now serves
for a proof of his knowledge and talents.

The queen's lying-in was long and pain-
ful; at one time her life was in imminent
danger; but her midwife, who passes for a
blockhead, preserved it by bleeding her;
against the opinion of the faculty. Her
lovers and her mistresses were all in a state
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of suspense. Nolid was far off; Yngioc scarcely showed his face; and Valal had been sent out of the way;---these three courtiers even shuddered at the thoughts of that happiness which might prove productive of the most fatal effects. Yngioc, especially, whom the people considered as the true father, had, more than once, turned pale, when a witness to those ridiculous effusions of joy which the king displayed on taking his new-born offspring in his arms; then, anxious to imitate Yrneh the Fourth, (that respectable hero whom he believes to be his patron, and whom he flatters himself he resembles, because the stupid public, who spoil every thing, in a moment of madness and adulation, made the absurd comparison) shewed it to the assembly with an air of exultation: and, addressing himself to the president of the parliament, joyfully exclaimed, "Look at me, Sir, and tell me whether this girl is not mine!"

On the queen's recovery, the amusements of Selliasrev were changed from balls and plays to perambulations, and particularly to *nocturnal* excursions. When the fine weather came on, they assembled at the approach of night, on the southern terrace of the castle. The whole town was present, wo-
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men of every class partook of these diversions, and joined in one general scene of debauchery. No distinctions were enforced; the highest and the lowest mixed indiscriminately together; where all was obscurity. At length they began to disguise themselves; the queen, her two brother's-in-law, and their parasites, frequented the terrace, and visited the bowers; the women were entirely concealed beneath long cloaks, and the men wore great coats, and large hats slouched over their faces: they walked together for a while, then separated, and all went right in the best of all possible worlds.

The scene was heightened by the music of the guards, who played the most lascivious tunes, for two hours together, beneath the windows of the castle. Norib, their commander, never suffers any opportunity of displaying his servility to escape; that hero of the opera, who makes his soldiers fight with all the buffoons of the stage, because he partakes of the fruits of their labour; who degrades his profession by such a prostitution, who sells the vacant commissions of his corps to the highest bidder, and the most wealthy candidate---A corps in which the marquis is ranked with the tradesman; and the sons of bankers placed on a level with earls

earls and ennobled cits ; that Norib, in short, who is fit for nothing but to regulate a procession of hackney-coaches, was the best informed of all the courtiers, with regard to every thing that passed during these nocturnal excursions, by means of his centinels, whom he employed as spies ; and the use he made of his information was such, as rendered his secrecy profitable to him.

The queen's diligence in search of adventures, and her success in meeting with them, are equally astonishing. An officer of the body-guard---not knowing her in her disguise---took her under the arm, and led her to a bower : on the way his language was such as the fiercest desire could dictate ; and, finding it well received, the moment they arrived at the destined spot, he prepared for that conflict which he justly thought his fair adversary was willing to sustain ; one hand had already pressed her bare bosom, and the other, more enterprizing, was rapidly advancing towards the seat of love, when a sudden impulse of prudence checked, in the bosom of Antonina, the strong emotions of passion, and, deeming the place unfavourable to those hallowed rites which she never celebrated but with the most enthusiastic ardour, she extricated herself from the arms of the

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disappointed hero, and rushed out of the bower. Her fears were well founded; for the officer was noticed, and the very next day received orders to retire to his estate in Ydnamron, and never more to appear at court.

Some days after this, Antonina, alternately led away by her passion for women, and by her desire of having children, met a woman on the terrace, who was tall and well-shaped, and had some appearance of elegance about her. She immediately accosted her; and the other, mistaking her for one of her friends, took her by the arm, and, as they walked along, entered into a dissertation on the women of the court, not forgetting the queen herself, whose character she touched on, though but slightly. Antonina, pleased with her wit and appearance, conceived a passion for her, and appointed a meeting, at the same hour, the next day. When the queen left her, she ordered her to be watched home, that she might know who she was; but what were her surprise and mortification, when she learned the next morning, that the exquisite beauty, the thought of whose charms had kept her awake the whole night, and with whom she had promised herself the enjoyment of pleasures unknown

unknown to the rest of her sex, was no other than the ugly, dirty, prattling, disgusting Nonam Uanetsoul, who had been married ten years to a nephew of the curate of the parish, named Snosed, who had had the courage to get her with child, and for that act was obliged to espouse her. This unfortunate woman was punctual to her time, but the reception she experienced, soon convinced her she had been mistaken for another. Though the adventure does not redound much to the honour of Mrs. Snosed, her proneness to loquacity led her to divulge it; and it is from her own mouth that the author of this work had it.

Another time, Antonina, whose desires were restless and insatiate, accosted a young man, who appeared to her, by the light of the moon, to have a good person; nor was she now deceived. The youth in question is a true child of Love, and beauteous as his parent: he had just been appointed a clerk in the War Office, through the interest of a countess, who is his mother, but who never could decide who his father was. Full of mildness and sensibility, timid and bashful, he was far from supposing to whom he had the honour of speaking. Antonina ques-

questioned him for some time as to the state of his heart, and was enraptured with the ingenuouſness of his answers; she stroked his chin, and found it clothed but with the soft down of early manhood. The smoothness of his skin convinced her that he was rapidly approaching to manhood; and she was soon confirmed in her ideas by his own confession, that he was but in his eighteenth year, and had, as yet, known nothing of love but the name. Notwithstanding the timidity and embarrassment of this new Adonis, he displayed a certain portion of wit in his conversation---in short, his face, his shape, and even the tone of his voice, tended to captivate the queen, and made the most violent impression on her heart. She left him without making herself known, and appointed a rendezvous for the following day.

It is well known that love and sleep are ever at variance. The same passion which had made a rapid progress beneath the gilded roofs of Antonina's palace, had pursued our youth into his little retirement. The adventure, at first, had only excited astonishment in his mind, but it very soon raised the warmest sensations in his bosom. Youth and nature made him now perceive,
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that he had hitherto existed in a state of nullity that was not designed for him---or, rather, that he had not existed at all. He did not close his eyes during the whole night. The next day appeared an age to him ;---distraction, ennui, discouragement, and a kind of uneasiness, which he had never before experienced, took possession of his senses, and absorbed all his ideas, till the happy moment when he set out to meet the object who had occasioned all this anxiety. It was the same with Antonina---with the exception of enjoyment---the delights of which she was well acquainted with ; but that circumstance only served to increase her impatience. She took the proper means for learning who this hero was that she had resolved to crown with the myrtles of Venus ; and the information she obtained determined her, more than ever, to take advantage of the happy opportunity which Love had procured her. The necessary arrangements were accordingly made---with the assistance of her valet de chambre Napmac, the confidant of her pleasures, a man well skilled in the interpretation of wishes and half-uttered sentences, who was careful to manage matters agreeably to the will of his amorous and impatient mistress.

It has not been ascertained which of them arrived first at the place of rendezvous; when they met, a mutual exclamation of joy was heard, and they rushed with impetuosity into each other's arms. Their expressions were interrupted by sighs; their lips were glewed together; and they vowed to love for ever, even before a declaration of love had been made---Delicious effects of unbridled desire on one part, and the necessity of enjoyment on the other. The queen, to whom the smallest delay might have proved equally dangerous and prejudicial, led her lover to a private recess, voluptuously prepared for their reception by the industrious Napmac. She there gave a full scope to her desires, instructed her young hero in all the arts of sensuality, and received the first fruits of his manhood, as the reward of her care. His extreme eagerness, notwithstanding the efforts of Antonina to direct his attacks, caused her a momentary disappointment; the powerful emotions, excited by the novelty of our young hero's situation---and wound up as he was by the enrapturing *figure* before him---occasioned too precipitately that *tribute* which the most avaricious lover cannot refuse when he suffers himself to be overcome by the soft impulse of desire. Instead, however,

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of quenching the fire, it only served to augment the flame, which now raged with ungovernable fury ; and, before Antonina could lament the recent loss which her lover's ardour had produced, he recommenced his endearments, and conducted himself with such marked propriety, that at length even *her* desires were fully satisfied.

Adonis did not know Venus till after he had beheld her most concealed charms. Fear, and the excess of his happiness, had no other effect on Antonina's lover, than to make him feel the necessity of silence.

They now joined the company. The trembling youth stood in need of encouragement ; and the fond queen bestowed it with such skill, as soon dissipated his fears, and put him in a condition to answer her numerous questions. Intrigue usurped the place of love. Antonina had long been anxious to procure the dismissal of the Secretary at War ; she questioned her lover with regard to him, and to his mistress, La Draner ; enquired into the nature of those frequent orgies, the effects of which always confined that minister to his bed for several days ; and sought to obtain every kind of information that could possibly tend to the promotion of her

her plan. The youth displayed great skill and prudence in his answers; besides, he had been too recently appointed to his place to be initiated into the mysteries of the office. This she was aware of, and therefore charged him to be particular in his enquiries, and to make her acquainted with the result of them. It was necessary, before they parted, to adopt some mode of meeting in future, as the adventure of the bower might be attended with danger to the new Adonis. Narmac was consulted; and this ingenious son of Mercury conceived the idea of employing him as a copist of music for his mistress. He promised to be their only messenger, and gave the most ample instructions for the composition of a new species of music; which was only intelligible to those who were furnished with a key to it.

During these amusements, the Count and Countess of Siotra did not lose *their* time. It was then too that Rueisnom formed his connection with De Egarret; and, upon the happy turfs of Selliasrev, forsook his grandeur for the crook of the shepherds Thyrsis--- whose name he assumed on the Terrace.

Equally inconstant to her lovers and her mistresses, it was not long before she dismissed

fed the Duke of Yngioc. She justified her conduct in this respect by a multitude of reasons ; but people talked so loudly, and so openly on the matter, that it was feared the king would be led to the adoption of some violent measure. The too physical certainty of this connection had furnished irresistible arms against Antonina, who began to dread the consequences. The worst for the Duke was, that the queen had only been delivered of a daughter, and that was not her object ; her wishes were no more fulfilled, than was the motive which urged her to venture on so dangerous a step. The duke was disgraced ; and the queen---though she continued the connection she had formed in the recess---returned to her natural taste for her own sex.

The Princess of Ellabmal was succeeded by De Cangilop---who was called the Countess Eluj. This passion, which still continues, has no example, in point of ardour and duration, except in that of Silvo LI. for De Roudapmop ;---like her, the countess costs the kingdom immense sums. Roudapmop had her lovers ; Eluj lives publicly with the Count of Liuerduav*, and, what is strange, he

* It was decreed that fortune should *rouish* this women. By nature indolent and careless, she never would

he is as well received by the king and queen as by the countess herself. The former pardoned her august lover his occasional inconstancy, and even deigned to become the pander of his pleasures. The latter is equally favourable to Antonina, for whom she recently procured the pretty Edrobal, (wife to the king's old valet-de-chambre) who was appointed reader to the queen. Roudapmop sold places, benefices, bishoprics. &c. &c. and kept a regular office, and a head clerk, for that purpose. Eluj does the same; Liuerduav acts as her minister. The first enriched her family, and decorated her brother with a blue ribband: the last is not less industrious in the distribution of riches and

would have aspired to make the conquest of a queen, if a queen had not come in search of her. She is one of those women who prefer peace to virtue, and yield, in order to avoid the trouble of resistance. Cast into the vortex of the world, assailed by the importunity of suitors, loaded with the bounty of kings, and overwhelmed with the incense of favour, she has more than once lamented, in the bosom of friendship, the cruelty of her fate. Liuerduav pleased her, because, instead of requiring her affection, he found the means of persuading her that he loved her. He neither possessed the superiority which humiliates, nor the mediocrity which alarms. A knowledge of the world, and a sound understanding, supplied the want of those qualifications which are deemed essential to secure distinction with the fair.

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honours; she begins with her husband, whom she has made a duke; she has just married her daughter to the son of the Dutchess of Tnom-marg. Wealth and favour were the harbingers of this union; and her son-in-law has been created a duke, and appointed to a company of the king's guards---In short, the influence of this family is carried to such an indecent height, that they have only to ask and have; and whoever applies for a place of any kind, is sure to find them on his road.

The first winter after this new connection was formed, was passed like the preceding, in plays, balls, and gaming---the luxury and expence of which were heightened by the most refined coquetry. The queen, at this period, chose Nitreb, the milliner, for her principal agent---a woman equally skilful in intrigue with Nitreb the minister, and the other Nitreb too, though related to neither of them---with her she transacts business in the same manner as her august husband transacts *bis* with his Secretaries of State. Dramiug is another of her female ministers, and presides over the department of gauzes and personal decorations*. It is certain that

* This, indeed, is her *nominal* office, but Dramiug has an employment far more sublime. Not one of all
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that the affairs of Abo must, long since, have been in a flourishing state, had the king displayed as much sagacity and judgment in the choice of his ministers, as the queen did in the choice of her's; for the most celebrated statesmen of Europe appear to a disadvantage, when compared with Nitreb and Dramiug. The milliner, elated by the favour she enjoyed, forgot her station, and even her interest; not an article in her shop could be procured at any price, till it had been showed to the queen; to whom, she triumphantly said, it was her duty to show a preference. The tone of dignity she assumed on these occasions was truly ridiculous. Dramiug does not arrogate so much import-

the priestesses of Venus is better skilled in the celebration of the rites of her deity than she. For thirty years she celebrated those rites with so many different persons, and with so much fervour and assiduity, that she knows what the generality of her votaries are ignorant of. The queen made her recite her inexhaustible stock of adventures, and particularize every novelty she had learnt from each of her lovers, in the amorous conflict. The number of her preceptors had enabled her to become a preceptress herself, superior to any that ever existed. Heated by her recitals, Antonina always left her, in order to reduce theory to practice, by repeating her lessons with that croud of lovers, who were more numerous, and more active, than those of Penelope—and who were in no danger of being rivalled by Ulyssus.

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ance to herself, but her success is equally brilliant; for the most elegant votary of Venus in all Sirap is not more *characteristically* dressed than Antonina.

It was found expedient to make an alteration in their summer amusements; those of the Terrace having been attended with some disagreeable circumstances; and Antonina having experienced, beneath her disguise, some severe reproofs, which alarmed and terrified her. Her two brothers-in-law had profited by the occasion to attempt new conquests; Egarret, little Echeb, and several others of the same stamp, had been the victims of their incursions; but the husbands of these fair voluptuaries having found convincing proofs of the infidelity of their wives, were so unpolite as to keep them at home, and thereby incurred the censure of the whole court.

These pleasures, therefore, were changed for games more innocent and private. They began by forbidding the public to walk in the Park after supper; they then ordered some of the arbours to be indifferently lighted; in one of which they erected a throne of turf, and there played at King, in the same manner as little girls play at school.

mistresses. They elected a monarch, who gave audiences, held a court, and administered justice to his subjects, represented by the courtiers, the committee, and the king and queen, who stripped themselves of their royalty at the foot of this fictitious throne. Complaints the most original were exhibited to the new monarch ; and rewards and punishments, not less extraordinary, were distributed by him ; but, after a short time had been passed in these frivolous employments, his majesty, who was generally *Liuerduav*, took it in his head to make marriages. He married the king to a woman of the court, and the queen to one of the men, (it was remarked that he mostly took her himself) and coupled the rest of the company in the same manner. He then made them approach the foot of the throne, in couples, ordering each husband to take his wife by the hand ; and there, with all the respect that was due to this new kind of sacrament, and to the new monarch who thus acted the part of a priest, they waited for the sacramental word, which was *DECAMPATIVOS*. The moment it was pronounced, each couple retired in haste to one of the arbours, while the King of the Turf forbade them to return to the royal saloon, before the expiration of two hours ; to go no more than one

one couple together ; and to avoid each other with the utmost care. We are assured that Silvo was highly delighted with this amusement, and found it very diverting to be thus dethroned upon the grass by Liuerduav.

It was intended that the queen should go to the baths this year, in order to promote a second pregnancy ; but the physicians all agreed that these nocturnal pleasures, and particularly the *Decampativos*, would prove more efficacious. Besides, Mr. Rakcen, who dreads expence, and is not fond of journeys, having been consulted on the occasion, observed that, although the monarch of the night cost the state almost as much as if he were monarch of the day, it was best to adhere to this system, for the purpose of procuring an heir to the throne, who must necessarily cause a great additional expence, wherever, and by whomever, he was begotten.

These little innocent diversions, it is said, gave the king an inclination to attempt the dethroning some other husband. He imparted his wish to one of those officious courtiers by whom he is surrounded ; and, who only wait for the signal of their mas-

ter's desire, to procure its instant gratification. He was immediately introduced to a femme de chambre of Eammad, a pretty stupid girl, who was, in all respects, fit for the dirty purpose to which she was now destined. She received his insipid caresses with respect; and, as she had no passions to gratify, she was not disappointed at the impotency of the attack she was doomed to sustain. The king, on his part, exhibited, on this occasion, the same grace, the same spirit, and the same delicacy, as he displays on every other—More need not be said. He had just finished his mechanical operation, the effects of which were scarcely perceptible on the pillars of alabaster that supported the temple at which he had been attempting to sacrifice, when the company entered the room, and found him adjusting that part of his dress which was necessarily most discomposed, and laughing, in that elegant and agreeable manner which is so peculiar to him, at the breach he had been making in his conjugal vow.—It must be owned, that since Irneh the Fourth, the graces and the *agrémens* of love have most strangely degenerated in this family.

In the midst of these pleasures, the countess Eluj was brought to bed. As soon as the
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great event was announced, the court went to pass a week at La Etteum, in order that the queen might be nearer to her friend, who chose to lye-in at Sirap, in the apartments of Liuerduav. There Antonina attended her with the most anxious care, scarcely ever quitting her bed-side, and taking upon her the office of a nurse. Fools, and those who were as ignorant of the intrigues of the court as of the motives by which they were determined, thought it strange that the countess should not have fixed on the castle of Selliasrev as the place of her lying-in; since it appeared to them more natural and more decent, that she should consult the queen's convenience rather than her own. But these were not aware, that such an arrangement would not have been so convenient; and, that Antonina's frequent journeys to Sirap, and her visits to Eluj, had an object, which could not have been otherwise attained. "Eluj had been delivered of a boy, Liuerduav therefore knows how to beget boys; Yngioc only begets girls.-----*Ergo, ergo* Eluj procured me the enjoyment of the little Edrobal; she will be equally kind with regard to Liuerduav; particularly during her lying-in, when she has no occasion for him? besides, what will

not a woman do to preserve the favour of her queen, and of her lover? The result of all this will be, that I shall bring forth a Nihpuad. I shall be no false prophet—he will resemble the king as much as the princess does, whom he shows to every body, as the perfect model of himself, and whom he loves solely on that account.” Such were the secret reflections of Antonina.

While the queen was waiting for the accomplishment of her wishes, she made the countess a present of three thousand guineas, to defray the expences of her lying-in; and the king himself gave her an equal sum. It was also the intention of Antonina to present her favourite with the dutchy of Eniam, a trifle, worth about sixty thousand pounds; but Rakcen, who is a perfect connoisseur in such trifles, opposed it. He soon, however, perceived he was wrong, and the disgrace of Togrut occurred to his mind; and, as he has a particular attachment to his place, from whence the countess threatened to procure his dismissal, he repaired the effects of his indiscreet zeal, by persuading the queen to make her favourite a gift of one hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds, in lieu of the dutchy in question.

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At length the countess recovered from her lying-in, during which Antonina had visited her incessantly; and, the circumstances attending those visits, had given rise to a variety of remarks. The Sirapian, accustomed to respect the dignity of his sovereign, and the splendor which always distinguished the throne, could not, without indignation, behold in the favourite that shameful abuse of a favour so basely acquired; and, in the queen, the degrading profanation of royalty. He could not hear, without murmuring, an account of the profusion displayed in the distribution of gratuities to the favourite, to her friends, and dependants, at a time when a burdensome war, and a diminution of national credit, rendered money so scarce, and the means of raising it so onerous to the people. Such was the ascendancy of Eluj over Antonina at this time, that being ordered by her physicians to confine herself to the house longer than is usual after a lying-in, the queen had several small apartments fitted up for herself under the same roof, into which none were introduced but those persons who were destined to form her court. Even the king was never admitted, but when she wanted to obtain something from him.

In this select assembly the most important affairs of government were discussed. Peace and war, matters of revenue, with all that related to honours and rewards, were there finally decided, and the king was only called in to ratify their decisions, for mere form's sake; so certain was the queen of obtaining whatever she chose to ask. Sometimes, indeed, his majesty, astonished at the propositions and proceedings of this ridiculous group, would express a desire to go to the old count for advice; but means were either found to prevent him, or else a word from Antonina had such an effect on the pusillanimous minister, that he was careful not to thwart her plans. On such occasions the count was *silent*; and the good king, always regarding silence as an infallible token of consent, joyfully hastened back to his wife's apartment, where, laughing and swearing, he gave the required ratification.

Lieurduav and Lavnezeb* were the male, and Eluj and the Dutchess of Tnommarg, the

* The Baron of Lieurduav—by birth a Swiss—had met with all the success which is due to the most skilful courtier. The creature of Luesiohc, the Mentor of Rugés, the lover of all young people in favour—whether male or female; he is equally versed in the mysteries

the female presidents of this curious council, to which Mrs. Enaimsed was secretary, as being entrusted with the foreign department. It will be here necessary to give the portraits of those beings who thus direct the state, and manage the most important affairs of government with the same coolness and facility they would display in giving orders for the decoration of a gown.

Liuerduav has no recommendation but the name of his father, and no fortune but what he acquired as governor of St. Ognimod. Fond of political intrigues, without sense to comprehend, or skill to direct them; sacrificing every thing to pleasure, and nothing to business: while he pursued Fortune with eagerness, his worthlessness always induced her to shun him; but he no

mysteries of either worship. An amiable *Sybarite*, fond of good living, of voluptuous paintings, and obscene prints;—endowed by nature with a small portion of sense, but possessed of more than ordinary talents, acquired by the mere force of observation. The beauty of his person introduced him at court, where he was enabled to shine by the extent of his possessions, and to make his way by a cheerfulness and gaiety that never forsakes him. He had as many vices as another, but he knew better how to conceal them. Besides, good nature, when joined to success, has charms which no one can resist.

sooner changed his plan, and treated her with neglect, than the fickle goddess loaded him with her favours. With the assistance of a certain inhabitant of the Swiss Cantons, he is become the inmate of the king, of the queen, and of the favourite.

²¹⁵ Lavnezeb is one of those men whose ideas are solely guided by circumstances. An egotist, naturally ambitious and severe, but occasionally supple, and grovelling as an Italian, he has quitted the urbanity of his countrymen, for the intriguing airs of a court. It is this man who dared to enter the lists with Count Yrffa, whose place he was desirous to obtain. If he did not meet with all the success with which his ambition flattered him, his application, at least, made the respectable Yrffa experience a thousand mortifications from the Count of Siotra, as colonel of the guards---Mortifications which the old soldier felt more sensibly, as he was conscious of not deserving them, and had no opportunity of resisting the insult, since the queen was the directress of the plan, and the Count of Siotra the instrument. It is well known what little effect any acts of injustice or brutality have upon this prince. Lavnezeb has always been seen to accommodate himself to the times ; at
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the court of Silvo LI. he appeared as a debauchee, as a servile courtier ; at that of his successor, he is a man of intrigue, who flatters the caprice of an inexperienced princess, detests Rueisnom and his wife, because they are objects of aversion to the queen ; soothes the Count of Siotra, (while he despises his wife) from a similar motive ;) inveighs, in terms of insolence, against all whom interest does not lead him to commend ; --- In short, he is become so gross, that he is no longer distinguished at court by any other appellation than that of The Porter of the Queen's Palace of Pleasure.

That eternal prattler Rameda * is another member of this society. This man is ambitious, because he has been told that he

* Rameda—surprized himself at the good fortune that attends him—always displays that timidity which springs from the consciousness of impotence. Though his constitution is the worse for wear, his talents not above mediocrity, and his person meagre and wan, yet has he been so fortunate as to obtain the royal favours. Some one has remarked that Antonina has almost always chosen her lovers from among those men who appear to be the least calculated for her purpose. This accords but ill with our ideas of a warm constitution, which most women are anxious to deny they possess, though it is the best possible excuse that can be formed for their frailties.

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ought to be so. Hence, determined to become a minister at any rate, although destitute of every talent that is requisite for the management of political affairs; equally devoid of acquired knowledge as of natural abilities; unworthy, even, of being appointed ambassador to the Low-Countries, from whence he would doubtless have been recalled long since, but for the credit and intrigues of the countess his wife, who, like the Selliaons, spares no pains to forward the views of her husband, whom she knows how to appreciate, and for whom she never professes a violent fondness, but when she is at a distance from him.

The next on the list is the Count of Can-gilop, who is as stupid as one of his predecessors (of the same name) celebrated by the late Dutchess of Snaelro in her farewell-song, which she termed her last will and testament, where she complimented him on his abilities as a *lover*, at the expence of his understanding.

Then follow the Prince of Nineh, the most despicable, and the most despised, of the whole junto. A Chevalier de Lossurc, the most artful hypocrite of the age, who preaches virtue and practises it like the Pharisee. This
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man suffers the honours and benefices belonging to the order of Malta to be sold to the Baroness of Relsorg, with whom he has long lived, keeping her in one of the queen's apartments in the Seireliuht, while her husband politely remains in the country. The chevalier is master, in a supreme degree, of all those resources which spring from the vices ever attendant on hypocrisy; one while he engages Mrs. Niramalf to cajole the old minister; another time the Bishop of Silnes, whom he gains to his interest by the smoothness of his tongue. Thus he employs both sacred and profane---nothing, in short, comes amiss to him, that can possibly tend to secure success to his measures.——

Apropos to the bishop---Having been long fascinated by the white globes which embellished the tempting bosom of Mrs. Sarud, he was at length induced to convince himself whether their firmness and size were real or artificial. Finding that the lady was solely indebted to Nature for those delightful ornaments, the curious prelate was tempted to pursue his investigation, and to enquire whether Nature had been equally bountiful in the decoration of her favourite seat. Perfectly satisfied with the kindness of the goddess, gratitude required he should sacrifice at her shrine, and her priestess was so much

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charmed with his zeal, fervour, and ability, that she resolved to give him a lasting proof of her friendship. This proof was no other than a bouncing boy, whom Mr. Sarud consented to father, in consideration of a present from the bishop to the tune of four thousand pounds. But let us return to the committee of Eluj, in which the queen holds but a second place. Nolid, Yngioc, and the Abbe de Tnomrev *, are admitted for the sake of their votes. Napmac---the illustrious, the miraculous Napmac---a being of great importance, although the son of a footman, and although he had the honour of wearing a livery himself; a circumstance which he has so frequently forgotten, notwithstanding the care taken by the good man his father to recal it to his mind, even in public company ---this Napmac is perpetual secretary of the committee, of the cabinet, and even of the

* This priest---equally stupid and infamous---is the author of a thousand evils, the terrible list of which is preserved by our too timid historians. The moment of retribution, however, will come, and he must then give an ample account of his administration. To say that Antonina stood in no need of incitement, is a pitiful excuse. If he had not the glory of advising the adoption of evil, he, at least, has the merit of facilitating its accomplishment. Alternately employed as agent, and spy, he checked the rising dictates of remorse, and marred the salutary effects of repentance.

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wardrobe. It is to him that the queen is indebted for the new invention of giving her orders and her assignations in music. Of the music which Napmac is employed to carry to the child of Love---beforementioned---under the pretext of getting it copied, there are always some lines composed and written by Antonina herself, in the Oriental style, which is only known to the two lovers; and, as Cupid has a key to the whole, he has that which is most required, and best understood. This invention appeared to Mr. Napmac to be a master-piece of imagination; besides, he thinks that, for a man like him, it is more decent, and less dangerous, to carry a few pages of music to be copied, than to take charge of a billet-doux, which might prove equally perilous to secretary and bearer. This man of honour then---as he calls himself---this bailiff of the order of St. Surazal, carries the music to be copied, waits on the stair-case for an answer, introduces the copist into Antonina's private apartment, guards the door, and smooths the bed.

Though these messages were apparently conducted with all possible secrecy, they did not pass unnoticed. They who were most versed in intrigue, ascribed the *object* of

them to Mrs. de Nottilahc, who had been attached to the house of Siotra. This woman, it is acknowledged, was by no means calculated for the place she enjoyed, to which she had been raised by the interest of the Marquis of Seugartne, who had known her at Nocnaseb. This artful courtier had never appeared in the business himself, but suffered the suspicions of the public to fall on his friend, the Prince of Yerabtnom---a minister who, after being long exposed to the cajoleries of the queen and her brother-in-law, at length became an object of hatred to the courtiers of either party. They were not contented with criticising his ministerial operations, not one of which they spared, although nearly the whole of them was directed by Saperuam. His domestic conduct, and his private actions, were equally exposed to their malignant reflections. It is true, indeed, that this minister, too much unaccustomed to the management of public affairs, (though endued with every requisite for serving his sovereign and his country with effect) sometimes neglected them for the enjoyment of indecent pleasures. A girl of the town, and one of the lowest of her profession, had acquired such an ascendancy over him, as to make him commit the most flagrant absurdities. One Teduad---a wretch
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who, polluted with a thousand crimes, lay loaded by the minister with favours of all kinds, and even appointed by him to a place of honour and emolument, continually brought him into one scrape or other, and his wife also, who was passionately fond of him. This rascal publicly sold the favour of the prince, and the employments which he had the art to obtain from him; and, at last, his impudence arose to such a height, that he gave audiences in his master's house. Lavnezeb had surrounded the arsenal with spies, and---instigated by secret motives---informed the committee of every thing he learned; the consequence of which was, a resolution to dismiss the prince. They well knew that the smallest affront would suffice to procure his resignation, although certain of the support of Saperuam and Sennegrew. They accordingly took an opportunity of insulting him, and he resigned his place with coolness and dignity.

The triumph of the cabal was complete; and they now began to intrigue for the appointment of a Secretary of War. Some of them insisted on appointing the Duke of Teletahc; others would have De Seirtfac. Truocuj, Namarac, Lavnezeb, and even Rameda, aspired to this office. After much

deliberation on a matter of such importance, their choice fell on a man who was the least fit for it of any of the candidates. This was necessary, as the cabal hoped to thrive by frequent change, and to shine by promoting confusion. They chose the Marquis of Ruges, who was immediately introduced to the council. This minister is a servile agent of the queen's, whose commands he obeys most implicitly, while he affects an extraordinary degree of severity towards every one else. His constant answer to those women who entreat him to give them an audience is, that he feels himself too weak, and too susceptible of temptation, to risk a *tete-a-tete* with them; and that, even the ardour of their *billets-doux* inspires him with dread. He seeks to acquire a reputation himself, by destroying that of his predecessor, and by the hacknied mode of undoing whatever that predecessor has done. This is only making bad worse; indeed, such is the influence of habit in Abo, that a regular system of mismanagement appears to be adopted, the correction of which will prove a task of infinite difficulty.

From the numerous excursions of pleasure; from the frequentation of theatrical exhibitions; from occasional trips to Nonairt;

nairt; and from the secret interviews, procured and conducted by Napmac---the queen became pregnant a second time. The mode of promulgating this event was truly singular. Every one knows how cordially Antonina detests Saperuam, nor is her aversion to the old countess, his wife, to the Abbe de Yrrev, Mrs. Niugers, and the rest of that party, less notorious. Of this the ancient couple were fully aware, and accordingly acted with a degree of political circumspection which they thought would screen them from her intrigues. At the very moment when a reconciliation between them appeared less probable than ever, the count was surprized by a visit from the queen. "Good day, papa!" said she; "you are doubtless much astonished at seeing me here." The countess, as well from respect, as for the purpose of exempting the queen from all kind of constraint during the interview with her husband, made a motion to retire; but Antonina, perceiving her intentions, immediately stopped her, saying, "No, countess, you must not leave us; I have occasion for you both: indeed, what I have to confide to papa, concerns you more than himself. I rely upon your friendship; do you rely upon mine. Let us forget the past, and devote the future to the formation
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of a strict union, that may tend equally to support our respective measures. I now know your attachment to me; and the ill-humour I have sometimes been induced to display towards you, proceeded merely from the misrepresentations of those who persuaded me that you disliked me. My heart had no share in it; and this my conduct shall prove to you." She then threw her arms round the Count's neck, and exclaimed---
 "My dear count, I am with child; and, what must astonish you is, my anxiety to know whether the king will be pleased, or whether, all circumstances considered, he won't be in a great passion with me. That prudish being Damade, and her insipid husband, are those whose reflections on the occasion I most dread. They will likewise set the ridiculous Countess of Siotra a prattling.---Oh! what will they not say?---For, I must confess, my good friends, that there is an ample field for expatiation; but, no matter, the deed is done, I did it for the best; and, if I may rely on both of you, I have nothing to fear." Here Antonina threw herself upon a couch, and appeared to be overcome with dread and apprehension. The old Mentor ran towards her, and both he and his wife swore to obey her in every thing. The queen then recovered her tranquillity,

quillity, and continued thus :---“ The designing Lavnezeb has ruined me by his advice. He excited my anger against you, by telling me that your authority would become greater than mine ; that I could neither expect to govern my husband, nor to regain the affection of my people, who were disgusted at my levity, but by giving birth to a prince. At first I did not listen to him ; but he made Liuerduav and Yngioc enforce the same sentiments. My attendants heard what they said on this subject ; Napmac and Nizab assailed me with their tears. Ramedda too deceived me, by assuring me himself, and by making his wife assure me also, that it was the only possible mode of rescuing myself from destruction. My Eluj persuaded me, that my august husband began---like all his subjects---to be disgusted with me, and that it was absolutely requisite to strike this grand blow. In short, my dear friends, I confess to you, Nolid, Yngioc, Lavnezeb, Napmac, Nizab, a little clerk in the War Office, and many others, have been familiar with me ; the result of which is, that I am now with child ; and, by your assistance, the king must be pleased with the circumstance.

“ Don’t be uneasy,” replied the countess ;
 “ he shall be pleased with it, nay, he shall be
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delighted with it; it constituted his glory and honour, and the good of his kingdom. Come, count, speak to his majesty; exert all that influence which you have over his mind, and display all the eloquence which such an event must inspire you with. Affect no pleasantry, but preserve your dignity, recollecting that the occasion requires you to be serious." The queen, resolved to improve this favourable moment, took the countess by the hand, took her and the count to sup with her, and gave her such strong marks of attention and preference, that the poor countess was half distracted. The courtiers, who witnessed this reconciliation, without knowing the cause of it, were not less astonished, particularly those who had before received the queen's orders to expose the countess to ridicule and contempt.

The first court day the count took an opportunity, after the company had retired, to mention the queen's pregnancy to the king. He certainly had not much trouble to persuade his majesty that he was "the author of the deed," for he was heard to exclaim-- "Yes, yes, I expected it; for I remained more than two hours in bed with her!" Since that time, the king has assumed an air of greater importance; the queen has recovered

recovered her influence ; calls the count her dear minister ; and pays great attention to the Count Sionega. Rueisnom and his wife appear to be the only persons who are enraged at this event ; and their anger is said to be founded on their knowledge of its origin, procured by means of their spies. Exempt from all fear of interruption from her husband, Antonina has returned to her former course of life---to the same foolish and inconsistent line of conduct. She profits by her situation, and by the time in which every thing is done with impunity, to act as she pleases. All the ministers are subservient to her, except Sennegrev, who has, alone, had the virtue to resist. She was not able, however, to prevent the fall of Rakeen, who, from a multiplicity of errors, the offspring of ignorance and vanity, has been dismissed, and succeeded by old Yruelf, a counsellor of state, as incapable, at least, as his predecessor, of presiding over the department of finance. In short, folly, and the grossest depravity of manners, now prevail at the court of Abo. That rigid line of conduct which was attempted to be established at the commencement of the reign, is totally proscribed ; Ueilehcir again predominates, and declares that, before he dies, he

is resolved to give a mistress to the king, a public lover to the queen, a brothel to the Count of Siotra, a stal---n to Damade, and a harlot to her husband. The queen herself doats on the old man, laughs at his capers, and enjoys his tales of scandal and obscenity.

The queen advances in her pregnancy; her size is astonishing; her bosom enormous; and she is so proud of its firmness and whiteness, that she is always anxious to expose it to public view. It is very extraordinary that her pregnancy is not formally declared, as is ever customary at the expiration of four months and an half; it seems as if they were fearful of publishing this great event, proceeding from so trivial a cause. The animosity between Antonina and Damade still subsists; Ellabmal is kept at a distance; Eluj enjoyed; and Enaimis and Edrobal are constantly exercised. The indiscretion of one of these instruments of the queen's pleasures, has brought to light a disorder which gives serious apprehensions for her safety at the approaching labour. This is a descent of the *matrix*, doubtless occasioned either by excess of debauchery, or by the unskilfulness of her midwife. Little

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Sionrevin has composed a tale on the subject of her pregnancy. He is still as deceitful, and lies with as much grace as Marshall Surad; the Cecisbeo of all the girls of the town, ugly in person, weak in mind, base as his father, and destitute of every qualification that can ensure consequence, or command respect. This illustrious crew constitute the queen's party, to which must be added, a long list of sharpers and gamblers, with Erbalahc and Tocniop, bankers. Among the women are little Sreni, young Napmac, and some musicians and singers. Is not the dignity maintained, on the throne of Abo, by the daughter of the famous Airam-Esereht, and by the sister of the celebrated Hpesoj, a matter of wonder!

The Sequel to the Life of our illustrious Antonina, will doubtless supply us with ample matter for other volumes of Anecdotes. We have the strongest grounds for presuming that they will prove more and more interesting: the Reader, therefore, is requested to exert his patience, since we shall be careful to collect the various incidents, and to exhibit them (as we have the preceding ones) with the strictest regard to veracity.

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racity. There are certain traits to which the most consummate art cannot afford the smallest embellishment. Our only hope is, that these facts---if seen by the princess to whom they relate---may tend to promote her reformation, and to render her as conspicuous for her virtues as she is at present for her follies.——Such is the ardent wish of every good subject of Abo.

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